AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-12 – Cancelled.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~An ISDN network terminating unit for receiving digital data via ~~a~~an ISDN communications link having an ISDN signaling channel and at least one ISDN data channel, said ISDN signaling channel being operable to establish and control connections between said ISDN network terminating unit and one or more data sources via said ISDN communications link so that data can be transferred from the or each data source to the ISDN network terminating unit via at least one ISDN data channel, the ISDN network terminating unit comprising:

a processor arranged to detect messages transmitted on the ISDN signaling channel that contain at least partial data of a predetermined type, the detected messages comprising sufficient information to enable the ISDN network terminating unit to establish how parts of data of the same predetermined type sent in separate messages are linked to enable the ISDN network terminating unit to reconstitute the data:

means arranged to extract the at least partial data; and

means arranged to store the at least partial data for passing to a first destination device,

the ISDN network terminating unit being arranged to establish how partial data detected in separate ISDN signaling messages are linked and being further arranged to reconstitute the data from said plurality of ISDN signaling messages.

14. (Currently Amended) An ISDN network terminating unit as in claim 13 wherein said at least partial data is reconstituted prior to being passed to a first destination device.

15. (Currently Amended) An ISDN network terminating unit as in claim 13 further comprising means operable to send at least partial data received for the destination device to further destination devices using messages transmitted on the ISDN signaling channel.

16. Cancelled.

17. (Currently Amended) An ISDN network terminating unit as in claim 13 in which said at least partial data is a part or a whole at least one e-mail message or other textual message.

18. (Currently Amended) An ISDN network terminating unit as in claim 13 in which said predetermined type of said at least partial data comprises a software download data type, database search results, news information or telemetry data type.

19. (Currently Amended)) An ISDN network terminating unit as in claim 13 further comprising means operable to detect whether the destination device is active so as to be able to receive the data and, if said device is active, to transmit the data stored by the ISDN network terminating unit to the device.

20. (Currently Amended) An ISDN network terminating unit as in claim 13 further comprising means operable to receive data from the destination device and to package the data in one or more ISDN signaling messages for transmitting the data to a further destination device.

21. (Currently Amended) An ISDN network terminating unit as in claim 13 further comprising means operable to detect ISDN signaling messages indicating the set up of a connection to a predetermined destination device and in response to such detection to transmit the data stored by the ISDN network terminating unit to the predetermined destination device.

22. (Currently Amended) An ISDN network terminating unit as in claim 13 further comprising:

means operable to monitor the activity of the ISDN signaling channel and to send and/or receive the data of a predetermined type when the ISDN signaling channel activity is within a predetermined range.

23. (Currently Amended) An ISDN network terminating unit as in claim 13 further comprising:

means operable to send and/or receive the data of a predetermined type during a predetermined time interval.

24. (Currently Amended)) An ISDN network terminating unit as in claim 13 further comprising ~~means~~:

means operable to estimate the time for transmitting data to a destination via the ISDN signaling channel and, if the time exceeds a predetermined threshold, to transmit the data to the destination using one or more of the ISDN data channels.

25. (Currently Amended) An ISDN network terminating unit as in claim 16 further comprising:

means operable to:

first, establish the number of messages to be transmitted to a destination device and transmit data representing said number,

second, identify the sender of each message to be transmitted to the destination device and transmit data representing each said sender, and

third, transmit data representing the text of each message to the destination device.

26. (Currently Amended) A method of operating an ISDN network terminating unit for receiving digital data via an ISDN communications link including an ISDN

signaling channel and at least one ISDN data channel, said ISDN signaling channel being operable to establish and control connections between said ISDN network terminating unit and one or more data sources via said ISDN communications link so that data can be transferred from the or each data source to the ISDN network terminating unit via at least one ISDN data channel, the method of operating the ISDN network terminating unit comprising:

detecting messages transmitted on the ISDN signaling channel that contain at least partial data of a predetermined type, the detected messages further containing sufficient information to enable the ISDN network terminating unit to establish how parts of data of the same predetermined type sent in separate messages are linked to enable the ISDN network terminating unit to reconstitute the data, and

extracting the at least partial data;

establishing how partial data detected in separate ISDN signaling messages are linked;

reconstituting the data from said plurality of ISDN signaling messages;

storing the at least partial data for passing to a destination device.

27. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 16 wherein said step of reconstituting the data occurs prior to passing the data to a destination device.

28. Cancelled.

29. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 26 wherein the at least partial data of a predetermined type comprises a part or a whole of at least one e-mail message or other textual message, and wherein in said step of reconstituting said digital data into a whole form, the whole of said at least one or more e-mail message is reconstituted.

30. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 26 wherein the data of a predetermined type comprises a part or a whole of a software download, database search results, news information or telemetry data, and wherein in said step of reconstituting said digital data into a whole form, the whole of said software download, database search results, news information or telemetry data are reconstituted.

31. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 26 further comprising the step of detecting whether the destination device is active so as to be able to receive the reconstituted data and, if said device is active, to transmit the data stored by the network terminating unit to the device.

32. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 26 further comprising the step of receiving data from the destination device and packaging the data into one or more ISDN signaling messages for transmitting to a further destination device.

33. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 26 further comprising the step of detecting ISDN signaling messages indicating the set up of a connection to a predetermined destination device; and, in response to such detection

transferring the data stored by the ISDN network terminating unit to the predetermined destination device.

34. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 26 further comprising the step of:

monitoring the activity of the ISDN signaling channel; and

transferring the data of a predetermined type when the ISDN signaling channel activity is within a predetermined range.

35. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 26 further comprising the step of transferring the data of a predetermined type during a predetermined time interval.

36. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 26 further comprising the step of:

estimating the time for transmitting data to a destination via the ISDN signaling channel; and, if the time exceeds a predetermined threshold,

transferring the data to the destination using one or more of the ISDN data channels.

37. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 28 further comprising the steps of:

first, establishing the number of messages to be transmitted to a destination device and transferring data representing said number to the ISDN network terminating unit;

second, identifying the sender of each message to be transmitted to the destination device and transferring data representing each said sender to the ISDN network terminating unit; and

third, transferring data representing the text of each message to the ISDN network terminating unit.